

legislation; and if we have other things to do, let us have our committee hold hearings to find out what has to be done. But we should not penalize, jeopardize and put into such an anxiety state the American people. I just want the record to reflect that.

□ 1515

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for yielding me the time, and Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see you in the Chair.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill to reinstate the National Flood Insurance Program. It is widely known by the acronym NFIP. I am relieved that it has come to the floor because it is important that it is passed. It is important for many reasons.

Because it did expire on December 21, it would affect 400,000 American homeowners because they will be without coverage by the end of the month. So timeliness is important and it is legitimate to say that this thing could have been taken care of before we left last year. So that is why I am saying I am relieved that it is coming up today.

For those who own property in flood-prone areas, flood insurance is really essential. It is a must and the consequences of the lapse in this program are serious. New policies cannot be issued, and without coverage prospective home buyers may not be able to close on a home. Many of us have closed on a home and we know that there are many parts of that closure. This is an essential piece if someone lives in a flood zone.

Policies cannot be renewed for homeowners whose policies expired after December 31st, and they could be liable for damage, even if they paid their premiums. That is not such a great deal.

Finally, the NFIP will not be able to borrow money to cover claims. So this has to pass, and I do not think that there is anyone that is opposed to it, but we really did not have to come to this point of anxiety.

My constituents have a special association with this coverage. That is because we suffered severe flooding in 1998 in the last El Nino, and hundreds of homes were flooded, many millions of dollars in damage. We can ill afford to be without this flood insurance today.

I want to urge every single person in this House to vote for this. It should be unanimous. It should be bipartisan. The American people deserved to have this taken care of before we left, but as I said, I am relieved it is on the floor now. Let us get this thing done. Let us send it to the President to have him sign it into law. The American people deserve the backing of this kind of insurance coverage and cannot afford to be without it.

I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time. I will be brief.

I am pleased that we were able as the first legislative effort this year to have the Committee on Financial Services bring forward a bipartisan bill that is going to be accepted unanimously. There will be differences on some ideological issues, and I look forward to our being able to debate those in a civil fashion, and I think it is important to note the differences on some issues will in no way interfere with our ability to work together in a cooperative way on the great bulk of issues that are not ideological and not partisan.

So I, as my first act as the ranking minority member, am grateful to the chairman for giving us a chance to come forward this quickly in a bipartisan fashion.

I do want to note that there is one unsung hero in this act and it is an unsung hero that is actually criticized and is unusually in the position of a hero, and that is an entity called the Federal Government. It has become very popular in America today to denounce government.

The people who talk about less government generally are applauded, and we are told that we have to get the government to stop interfering with the private sector, but we are here bringing forward a bill that will be passed unanimously because there are some important issues in this society which the private sector cannot do by itself. If there was not a National Flood Insurance Program, we would have serious difficulties.

I should add that I agree with those who spoke earlier, the gentleman from Nebraska and the gentleman from Oregon, about the need for reform. That is why I was pleased that the gentleman from Ohio took the bait, and I was glad to agree with him in resisting a longer authorization. This is a 1-year authorization, precisely so that we can as a committee work on the kind of reforms that will be both environmentally and fiscally sound that this program can have.

Whether it is reformed in one way or not, it will remain an example of the government coming to the aid of the private sector in dealing with an important national need that the private sector by itself cannot deal with. It is not an entirely government enterprise either. It is an example of private/public sector cooperation, and on that grounds I am glad to have it.

I would also add just for the historical record, I have the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from the last day. At least on the last day of the session in November, no unanimous consent request was made. So I do not see any record that anybody here objected to it, but the important issue is we are bringing forward this bill. I believe it is going to pass unanimously, and it is certainly my commitment and I know the chairman's to begin a process this year so that we can within a few months come

forward with a bill that will have a longer and reformed authorization, and I will be glad to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

In closing, let me thank my good friend from Massachusetts, the new ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, for his cooperation in this area.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of reauthorizing the FEMA Flood Insurance Program. Yesterday, I introduced a similar piece of legislation, HR 215, and I am very thankful to Chairman OXLEY for bringing this important bill to the floor so that America's homeowners can have the flood insurance many of them desperately need.

I represent a district in southeast Louisiana, a region that is very prone to flooding, perhaps one of the most flood-prone areas in our country. Nearly all of southeast Louisiana falls in flood zones. So, a lapse in this program would be devastating to commerce in Louisiana. Without the flood insurance, banks will not lend mortgage money to prospective home buyers or owners in designated flood zones. Also, any home buyer that was set to close after January 1 would suffer delays without having the required flood insurance coverage.

Living under the constant threat of a flood—much less actually experiencing one—is devastating enough mentally and physically without families having to worry about how to recover financially in the aftermath. With the passage of the important legislation, the real estate market will be able to move forward, and millions of homeowners will be assured they are covered in the event of a catastrophe. I thank the House for considering this today, and I urge a yes vote.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 11.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BUCKEYES FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 10) congratulating the Ohio State University football team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 10

Whereas in 2002, the Ohio State University Buckeyes football team captured its fifth undisputed collegiate national football championship;

Whereas The Ohio State University is a member of the Big Ten Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-A and in 2002 was the Conference's champion for the 29th time in school history;

Whereas The Ohio State University's 14-0 record in 2002 is the best for a season for a Division I-A football team in national college football history;

Whereas on the way to the national championship Ohio State defeated five nationally ranked opponents, which included a 14-9 triumph over the University of Michigan;

Whereas The Ohio State University entered the Fiesta Bowl as an 11-point underdog to a University of Miami team that was on a 34-game winning streak, yet emerged victorious;

Whereas Head Coach Jim Tressel has won five national college football championships, the 2002 championship being his first Division I-A title and his first with The Ohio State University;

Whereas Coach Tressel and his father Lee Tressel are the only father-son combination to each win National Coach of the Year honors and a national championship in football;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, and manager dedicated their time and effort to ensuring that the Buckeyes reached the pinnacle of team achievement;

Whereas The Ohio State University Marching Band, and the cheerleaders, students, alumni, faculty, and supporters of The Ohio State University are to be congratulated for their commitment and pride in the Buckeyes' football program; and

Whereas its five Division I-A football national championships makes the Ohio State University football program among the most successful in college football history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Ohio State University football team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping The Ohio State University win the 2002 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the 2002 Ohio State University football team and invite them to Washington, D.C., for a White House ceremony for national championship teams; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to The Ohio State University for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of the resolution to each coach and member of the 2002 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 10.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, it is a privilege to manage this resolution today on behalf of the committee and for my neighbor and colleague from Columbus, Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), a graduate of the Ohio State University, on the new reigning NCAA national champions of college football, congratulating the Ohio State University on a great season and a great title game.

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), a huge Buckeye fan, represents the main campus of the Ohio State University and could not be with us today because of leadership obligations.

I, as the other Member of Congress from Columbus, Ohio, have a privilege to manage this resolution today honoring our great football team and a tremendous season, a true story of David versus Goliath, with 13 seniors and many young players on a team in an incredible season, unprecedented season, 14 and 0.

Ohio State brought home its fifth national championship, Mr. Speaker, a classic season and a classic final game for the ages.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 10, congratulating Ohio State University for winning the NCAA Division I football championship.

Last Friday, Ohio State captured its fifth national football championship, winning one of the most closely fought college football games in recent memory. College football fans, student athletes and the general public were treated to an exciting Fiesta Bowl and end to this college football season.

I want to extend my hearty congratulations to head coach Jim Tressel, Ohio State University president Karen Holbrook, and Ohio State's student athletes for a job very well done.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the University of Miami and their student athletes for a great season. The University of Miami won all of their games during the regular season and produced two leading Heisman trophy contenders in Ken Dorsey and William McGahee. I know that I speak for all of this Congress as we wish Mr. McGahee a speedy and thorough recovery from the knee injury he sustained during the game.

Winning a championship has brought national acclaim to Ohio State University, and I hope the fans at the university and the university community treasures this moment for many, many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the

distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) from Columbus, Ohio, and an Ohio State grad and a former member of the Ohio State marching band for bringing this resolution to the floor today, and let me say I support the underlying resolution, support and congratulate the Ohio State University on what really was an outstanding season, not only for the coach and the players, the fans, but for all who watched Ohio State go through a number of games where it was very close, games that they were certainly about to lose, including the national championship.

As an old football player myself, I can tell my colleagues the game on January 3, the national championship game, was one of the most exciting football games that I have ever watched or one that I ever played in.

The real credit here goes to Coach Jim Tressel and his players. They did not have the most talented team in the country, not even close, and to win all of the close games all year is a sign of very good coaching and players who come together to create a very good team, and so for myself and my colleagues, our delegation, we want to congratulate the Ohio State University, the coach Jim Tressel, the players and all the fans.

Way to go, Bucks.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, and a Ohio State University Law School graduate.

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and this is indeed a proud day for all Buckeyes. This has been quite a season to see in the ups and downs, and to see this talented group of athletes, student athletes, under the leadership of Coach Jim Tressel was a memorable time for all of us and to see an underdog team perform so well in the Fiesta Bowl for the national championship, with a crowd that was probably 80 to 85 percent made up of scarlet and gray was truly amazing, and as the coach said after the game, he felt that the crowd, very strong crowd, from Ohio State truly made a difference in the outcome, and for that, we are very, very pleased.

The gentleman from Columbus mentioned that I was an Ohio State law grad. That is correct. It is also true that of the four branch campuses of the Ohio State University, I represent three, in Mansfield and Lima and Marion. I have had a long-standing relationship with that great university, and we have seen perhaps the culmination of a season, like no other, where

we have won 14 games, including the national championship.

The last one we won was January 1 of 1969, when I was a senior at Ohio State Law School and got to see Ohio State defeat Southern California. If the gentlewoman from California is listening, we beat USC for the national championship. So Woody Hayes is smiling somewhere today because Ohio State is back on top, and for that we are very, very grateful.

I thank the gentleman from Columbus for his leadership in this area.

As an Ohio State football fan since I was boy, I never thought I'd say this, but there is something bigger than the Michigan game.

Ohio State has a great football history. Going into this year 4 consensus National Championships. 28 Big Ten Championships. 13 Rose Bowl appearances. 6 Heisman Trophy Winners.

But I doubt there will ever be a single game that matches what happened last Friday night at the Fiesta Bowl when the Buckeyes defeated the Miami Hurricanes, 31-24 in overtime, to win their first undisputed national championship since the 1968 team.

I was a student at the Ohio State's law school back then and never dreamed I'd have to wait this long to see the Buckeyes win another championship. But in exchange for a little patience and few frustrating years against our neighboring state to the north, Ohio State fans were able to watch our team play and win the greatest college football game in history.

Under legendary coach Woody Hayes, the Buckeyes usually went into games as the favorites. This time, the experts said Ohio State was overmatched. But Coach Jim Tressel knew that all any team needs to do to win, is make plays. The plays were unforgettable—and there were so many of them!

Maurice Clarett's strip after a crucial Miami interception. Michael Doss's pick-off. Matt Wilhelm's crushing sack. Craig Krenzel's miraculous 4th-and-14 completion in overtime and his quarterback sneak for the touchdown. And the final goal line stand by a valiant defense.

I salute Miami's effort, and you can see why they were the defending champions. But we in Ohio are proud that the Buckeyes won and ever prouder of the way they won: with determination, passion, and courage. This is a team that taught all of us a lesson, and the lesson is: it's only over when you stop trying.

I don't want to wait another 34 years to see Ohio State play for another national championship. But my heart may need that long to recover from this one!

□ 1530

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services mentioned that he represents three of the four branch campuses. I happen to represent the fourth, in Newark, Ohio. So I believe we have the State covered, Mr. Chairman.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) mentioned that Coach Jim Tressel has truly reinvigorated the football program at Ohio State and the fans around the State of Ohio, but also

his belief in college football and what it means to the student athlete, the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship, school spirit and heart; and he was recognized this week as coach of the year by the American Football Coaches Association, a truly well-deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Springfield, Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), who is a distinguished law school graduate from Ohio State University.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I represent a large part of Franklin County. I would like to thank the gentleman from Columbus for his leadership on this bill. As a former band member, I guess he learned how to march pretty well; and he has done a good job here in Congress.

It was a great game, and both teams need to be congratulated for playing an outstanding game, one of the best traditions in competition. There were no penalties, as I recall, for any unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike activities in that game. It was true champions going at each other.

In the final analysis, the champion was Ohio State University. Ohio State University is a champion in many ways, not just in football but in a lot of other endeavors as a university. It is an outstanding university in this country, and it has been my pleasure to work with them on a number of things.

I think there was a time when many people said to themselves, golly, I wonder if this new coach can coach at this level in the Big Ten. Well, I think that has all been put to rest. He is a national coach today. He has a national reputation. And he has shown what a true gentleman can do in recruiting and in coaching this young team to the success that they had this year. He has built a successful football team without sacrificing strong beliefs in the importance of academics for his players. His leadership has paid off with the Buckeyes' having a championship to show for it and memories of a game that people and sports writers are already calling one of the greatest college football games in history.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote something that Coach Tressel said. He said, I believe an accurate quote, "We have always known we had the best damn band in the land. Now we know we have the best damned team in the land." With that, Go Bucks!

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), mentioned, he also represents Franklin County. We also have the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), who represents Franklin County, and as I said represents the main campus of Ohio State University, but

could not be with us on the floor today because of leadership duties. But again, on behalf of the entire Ohio delegation, we want to again congratulate Ohio State University and all of the Buckeye nation for a fantastic season and a well-deserved honor.

As a native of Columbus and an Ohio State graduate and a 4-year member of the Ohio State Marching Band, I want to also congratulate the rest of the folks at Ohio State; not just the team, but the band, the cheerleaders, the entire athletic department, the student athletes who represent other sports, and the students as well of Ohio State University for such a fine honor, as well as to again salute Coach Tressel and the entire organization not only in winning the championship but doing it with class.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it was with some reluctance that I voted for the OSU resolution.

Much has been said today about the quality of the Ohio State players, coaches, and fans. However, nothing has been said about the refs.

After watching the game I too, wondered about the refs and their ability to be employed in the future. I was pleased to see that they seemed to be in action just a couple days later during the San Francisco-N.Y. Giants game on Sunday.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to The Ohio State University football team. On January 3rd they finished their season by beating the then number 1 ranked Miami Hurricanes in the Fiesta Bowl. This resulted in their winning the Division 1-A College Football National Championship. This is the university's first title since 1968. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the Buckeyes are the first Big 10 team to win the crown since the Bowl Championship Series was implemented in 1998.

The amount of time and effort Coach Tressel, his staff, and the team put into this feat is a tribute to the proud tradition boasted by The Ohio State University. They have proven that even the most difficult goals can be reached through hard work, sacrifice, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Tressel is the only coach currently in his profession to win national titles in both Division 1-AA and now Division 1-A. He won four national titles while coaching at Youngstown State and now has his first at Ohio State. His steadfastness toward education and the discipline he demands off the field is a formula to which all coaches should aspire. His win last Friday validates so much more than what a strong defense can do for a team. It shows that character, planning, and responsible decision-making are what really matters in the end. Coach Tressel has built an organization that has taken The Ohio State University back to greatness both on and off the football field. On behalf of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate him, his coaches, and the team on a job well done.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I offer this resolution, which congratulates the Ohio State Buckeyes on their historic win against the Miami Hurricanes in claiming the 2002 Division 1-A national collegiate football championship.

Mr. Speaker, the Buckeyes steadily rose through the national rankings this year under

the unwavering leadership of their second year head coach, Jim Tressel. Starting the season ranked an unlucky 13th, the Buckeyes kept winning and winning, ending up the regular season by beating archrival Michigan 14-9, remaining undefeated and ranked 2nd in the country.

Their record earned Ohio State a trip to Tempe, Arizona to play in the Bowl Championship Series national championship game against the Miami Hurricanes, a game in which the Buckeyes entered as an 11 point underdog.

In that national championship game, ultimately decided in double overtime Ohio State emerged victorious with their offense scoring 31 points and their defense holding Miami for four downs on the two yard line as time expired to win the game. Critics and sports-writers have already called this game arguably the greatest college football game ever played.

The Buckeyes found a breathtaking way to end an equally dramatic season.

From their fourth-down play successes to their 8 come-from-behind victories, Ohio State showed their hearts on the field and won a record setting 14 victories.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to recognize Coach Tressel, who is in his second year as the Head Coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes. Coach Tressel's stoic, disciplinarian, and consistent style of leadership has restored the Buckeye team to its rightful place among the nation's elite college programs. And, in the process, Coach Tressel has instantly joined coaches Woody Hayes and Paul Brown in the annals of Ohio State's proud athletic history. In two short seasons, Coach Tressel has demonstrated that winning is innate—whether at Division 1-AA (Division 1 double A) Youngstown State or the Ohio State University.

However, the 2002 Buckeye team was perhaps best personified by junior quarterback Craig Krenzel. The consistently under-rated Krenzel, a molecular genetics major carrying a 3.7 GPA, displayed a grit and toughness equal to his intellect by scoring two dramatic touchdowns, leading both teams in rushing yards, and earning the Fiesta Bowl's MVP honor.

Ohio State football history and tradition are the bedrock of Columbus, Ohio—from The Best Damn Band in the Land, the Dotting of the I in Script Ohio to the Horseshoe, Skull Sessions and Hineygate, Ohio State fans are ever mindful of the University's storied past.

Both with and without tickets, some 60,000 adoring OSU faithful traveled to Tempe to cheer on their Buckeyes, coloring Sun Devil Stadium in a sea of scarlet and gray, and giving the Buckeyes a home field advantage some 2000 miles away from Columbus.

As a graduate of The Ohio State University, I take enormous pride in the Ohio State football team's sportsmanship and courage. The Buckeyes showed the world the definition of champions. Their preparation, fortitude, and desire will go down in the history of athletic competition as an example of triumph in the face of adversity. I could not be more pleased to be a fan, alumna, and Representative of The Ohio State University and their championship football team.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the mo-

tion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 10.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS FOR WINNING THE 2002 NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 13) congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 13

Whereas on December 14, 2002, the Grand Valley State University Lakers won the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship by defeating Valdosta State University;

Whereas this national championship is the school's first in a varsity sport;

Whereas the Lakers won the 2002 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Football Championship with a perfect 9-0 record in league play;

Whereas the Lakers completed the 2002 season with a perfect 14-0 record, and won 33 of its last 34 games;

Whereas Head Coach Brian Kelly has been with the team since 1991, and has led the team to a 104-34-2 overall record;

Whereas the Lakers returned 51 letter winners, including 16 starters from the 2001 team that fell only to North Dakota in the NCAA Division II National Championship game;

Whereas the Lakers placed 18 players on the 2002 All-GLIAC team;

Whereas quarterback Curt Anes was named the GLIAC Player of the Year for the second straight year and earned the 2002 Harlon Hill Trophy as NCAA Division II's most outstanding player;

Whereas the Lakers defense dominated opponents by ranking 34th in the Nation in rushing defense and recording 58 quarterback sacks;

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and fans of Grand Valley State University showed their support for by helping the Lakers set a GLIAC record for regular-season attendance; and

Whereas the Lakers have displayed great strength, ability, and perseverance this season and have made the State of Michigan proud: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship and recognizes all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in this achievement;

(2) requests that the President recognize the accomplishments of the 2002 Grand Val-

ley State University football team and invite them to Washington, D.C., for a White House ceremony for national championship teams; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Grand Valley State University for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grand Valley State University Lakers Football Team. On December 14, approximately 3 weeks before the Ohio State Buckeyes became national champions, the Grand Valley State University Lakers Football Team set the national standard by winning the NCAA Division II Football National Championship by defeating Valdosta State University.

In all seriousness, as a Wolverine from the great State of Michigan, just north of the State of Ohio, congratulations to our colleagues of the Big Ten, the Ohio State Buckeyes. It was a great year for the Midwest. My sympathy to my colleagues in other parts of the country who did not enjoy the same type of success the Midwest had this year during the football season.

This game also was an exciting game that pitted the number one ranked Grand Valley State Lakers against the number two ranked and perennial football powerhouse Valdosta State University from the great State of Georgia. Ultimately, the game was won by the Lakers when quarterback Curt Anes threw a 10-yard scoring pass to wide receiver David Kircus with 1:04 left in the game to lift the Lakers to a 31-24 victory.

In addition to the national championship victory and the second consecutive trip to the national championship game, Grand Valley captured its second consecutive Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Football Championship with a perfect 9-0 record, and going through the playoffs and concluding the season with a perfect record of 14-0.

Head Coach Brian Kelly, who has been with the team since 1991, has led the team to a 104-34-2 overall record and has much to be proud of. Coach Kelly assembled an extraordinary football program and a stellar coaching staff.

Led by senior quarterback Curt Anes, who on the evening before the championship game was awarded the 2002